



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**  
**Board of Public Utilities**  
**Two Gateway Center**  
**Newark, NJ 07102**  
[www.bpu.state.nj.us](http://www.bpu.state.nj.us)

Customer Assistance

IN THE MATTER OF MARK HURST,       )  
PETITIONER v. NEW JERSEY NATURAL   )  
GAS COMPANY, RESPONDENT            )

ORDER ADOPTING  
INITIAL DECISION

BPU Docket No. GC03060480U  
OAL Docket No. PUC 7651-03

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On June 24, 2003, Mark Hurst (Petitioner) filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities (Board) for a hearing in regard to a billing dispute with New Jersey Natural Gas Company (Respondent).

On August 4, 2003, the Board transmitted this matter to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for determination and initial disposition as a contested case pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:14F-1 et seq. The matter was assigned to Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Jesse H. Strauss, ALJ.

During the pendency of this matter at the OAL, the parties engaged in negotiations and executed a Stipulation of Settlement. The settlement was submitted to the ALJ for review. On November 21, 2003, ALJ Strauss filed his Initial Decision with the Board, recommending that the settlement be approved. The ALJ found the settlement to be voluntary, consistent with the law and fully dispositive of all issues in controversy. The ALJ therefore concluded that the settlement met the requirements of N.J.A.C. 1:1-19.1.

The settlement provides that Petitioner will pay Respondent the sum of \$1,125.65 in equal installments over a period of 35 months in full satisfaction of obligations for prior service, in addition to current and future charges for ongoing service.

After review, the Board FINDS that the terms of the settlement are fair and reasonable. Therefore, the Board HEREBY ADOPTS the Initial Decision and Stipulation of Settlement in their entirety, incorporating the terms thereof into this final decision as if fully set forth at length herein.

DATED: 1/9/04

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES  
BY:

SIGNED

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JEANNE M. FOX  
PRESIDENT

SIGNED

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FREDERICK F. BUTLER  
COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

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CAROL J. MURPHY  
COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

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CONNIE O. HUGHES  
COMMISSIONER

SIGNED

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JACK ALTER  
COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

SIGNED

KRISTI IZZO  
SECRETARY

Mark Hurst v. New Jersey Natural Gas Company

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